

THE JOURNAL

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MANAGER, EDITOR.

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The above is a true and correct statement
 of the circulation of The Minneapolis Journal
 for dates mentioned.

KINGSLEY T. BOARDMAN,
 Manager Circulation.
 Sworn and subscribed to before me this
 15th day of January, 1902.
 C. A. TULLER,
 Notary Public, Hennepin County.

A PROMISING COMPROMISE

The people who cannot see anything
 good in the proposed tax law when the
 merits of the bill are spoken of, and the
 merits are not few, fall back on the propo-
 sition:

"Oh, well, if we should raise the valua-
 tion, as is suggested, three or four times
 above the present figure, the rate will be
 just the same. It will only be a year or
 two when we will be taxed at the same
 rate as we are now. The tax eaters will
 share up the rate; we will have to lay
 pavements, make public improvements,
 and increase the public service in various
 ways, which will have the effect of rais-
 ing the rate until it will be just the
 same as it is now."

It is singular that the absurdity of this
 position does not suggest itself to those
 who offer it. If, instead of reducing the
 tax rate proportionately to the increased
 valuation, it should remain as it is, and
 the amount of taxes collected should be
 raised in proportion to the rise in valua-
 tion, why don't the people who levy taxes
 do it now? Why are they not continually
 shoving up our tax rate, and doing it to
 such a degree that we are paying three or
 four times what we pay now? It would
 be no easier under the proposed law to
 collect \$3,000,000 in Minneapolis, as com-
 pared with the \$3,000,000 or so that we
 collect now, than it would be to raise the
 taxes that much now, and everybody
 knows that that could not be done. No ad-
 ministration of city, county or state af-
 fairs would dare to do anything of the kind.

If we are going to tax all property, real
 and personal, it certainly ought to be
 taxed on a level of actual value with
 proper offsets, and if we are going to tax
 it on that level we are certainly going to
 bring the rate down to a reasonable
 one. It is absurd to assume that we are
 not. Of course as new communities grow
 the necessary revenue increases, but be-
 yond the natural increase there is no rea-
 son to expect any heavier taxation under
 the full valuation assessment than under
 an assessment of one-third or one-quarter
 of the actual value. And it certainly
 makes for equitable distribution of the
 tax burden when the actual value of prop-
 erty is taken as a basis of settlement in-
 stead of the assessor's guess or the own-
 er's depreciation of his own holdings for
 taxation purposes.

However, as The Journal has al-
 ready indicated, it will be quite satisfied
 if the tax law is made to go into effect in
 the meantime, to adopt the compromise
 amendments under which a new
 code may be perfected before this one
 becomes operative. And this it urges in
 the hope that under such a condition of
 things, with this law on the statute books,
 the people who are so much concerned to-
 day about its effect may not forget that
 the amendments are to be voted upon
 when the election day comes. There is
 every reason to believe that under such
 conditions the amendments may be
 adopted, but without the pressure which
 the existence of this law upon the statute
 books would bring to bear upon the voters
 there is no reason to expect the adoption
 of these amendments or any progress to-
 ward tax reform, and we might as well
 give up the whole business.

Governor Van Sant's reply to the busi-
 ness men who asked him to desist in his
 effort to prevent Mr. Hill from violating

the state law, was very moderate and dig-
 nified, but, perhaps, for that reason all
 the more forcible. It seems strange, in-
 deed, that the governor of any state
 should have to explain to responsible citi-
 zens why he complies with his oath of
 office to enforce a law—particularly a law
 which has been on the statute books for
 over a quarter of a century, and the viola-
 tion of which has been successfully re-
 sisted in the courts once before. But we
 are not likely again to meet with an
 incident of this kind in our history.

SUPREME COURT AND THE MERGER

There is a feeling among lawyers and
 others in Washington who followed the
 hearing before the supreme court, or a large
 application of the state of Minnesota to
 bring suit against the Northern Securities
 company, that the court will refuse to
 take jurisdiction. This is expected to
 come about through a conclusion by the
 supreme court that the state courts have
 jurisdiction and that the state should
 commence there before coming to the
 highest court in the land for relief. Of
 course, the only effect of that would be to
 throw the suit back into the supreme
 court of Minnesota, where, probably, in
 some different form, it would begin over
 again and doubtless ultimately reach the
 supreme court.

But another reason suggested for the
 refusal of the supreme court to assume
 jurisdiction is that if that court can de-
 cently avoid it it will not take original
 jurisdiction of the merger because of the
 precedent it would establish. The su-
 preme court may conclude that if they
 take jurisdiction of this case they will be
 flooded with similar litigation from other
 states that have trust: of their own to
 deal with. The result would be the dump-
 ing upon the supreme court, or a large
 amount of business which, large part,
 at least, might be taken care of in the
 lower courts. This possibility of over-
 loading the supreme court with litigation
 of this kind, if the Northern Securities
 case is admitted, is well calculated to in-
 duce the court not to take original juris-
 diction if it can be avoided. This, of
 course, has nothing to do with the merits
 of the merger case, but is a feature of the
 situation of some interest.

Who shall have the right to carry the
 golden spurs at the coronation? The
 court of claims, sitting in London to de-
 termine, who shall do the various silly
 acts at the coronation of King Edward is
 wrestling with this "most important mat-
 ter," as the English papers term it. The
 Earl of Loudoun and Lord Grey de Ruth-
 ven are contending for the honor, and
 have been setting forth their genealogies
 to prove their claims. We shall get out
 an "utxtry" just as soon as the court ar-
 rives at a decision.

WORKING FOR PEACE

Heretofore all announcements of nego-
 tiations for a basis upon which to bring
 the Anglo-Boer war to a conclusion and
 restore much needed peace to war-harried
 South Africa, have proven false. The
 combatants have refused to abate the fer-
 rocities of war. There was a personal
 conference last year between Lord Kitch-
 ener and the Boer general, Botha, on the
 subject of a settlement, but the mat-
 ter was dropped.

The announcement by Mr. A. J. Balfour
 in the British commons that the govern-
 ment of Holland had made proposals for
 peace in behalf of the Boers, Dr. Kuyper,
 the premier of the Netherlands being the
 intermediary, and that the cabinet had
 the matter under consideration, embodies
 some hope that a settlement may at last
 be reached. It is hardly probable that
 Dr. Kuyper would act in this business
 without having consulted the Boer dele-
 gates in the Netherlands, Messrs. Pischer
 and Wolmarans and Dr. Leyds, who have
 already had a conference with Dr. Bis-
 scop, who was sent by the London Daily
 News to ascertain their views, and prom-
 ised to take the matter into considera-
 tion. The subject discussed was the dis-
 position of the Boers to seek a settlement
 like that proposed by Lord Rosebery in a
 recent speech, viz., autonomy on the Cana-
 dian model for the Transvaal and Orange
 Free State; a reasonable extension of the
 military occupation and complete amnesty
 for the Boers and the Cape Colony in-
 habitants. The Boer delegates referred to
 are in the confidence of Kruger. The
 mission of Dr. Kuyper would hardly have
 been undertaken unless he had some intima-
 tion from the delegates that they
 wished such office performed by the
 Netherlands government.

Whatever these gentlemen may do,
 however, in the way of peace negotiations
 will be useless, unless the commandoes
 ahead and fighting in South Africa are
 in sympathy with the movement. Kruger
 and the delegates, temporarily residing
 in the Netherlands, may settle the affair
 satisfactorily, but it is extremely proba-
 ble that the Boers will still retain their
 purpose to fight until independence
 or the antebellum status is restored. They
 could probably be influenced by the Afri-
 caner element of Cape Colony to recon-
 sider this determination.

The Boers and the Africans, who are
 in sympathy with them, differ in that
 the Africans of Cape Colony and the west-
 ern districts are generally of better edu-
 cation and relatively of better birth than
 the Boers. Many of their families are
 descended from those French Huguenots
 who were exiled by the revocation of the
 Edict of Nantes and sailed from Holland
 where they had taken refuge, to South
 Africa, over 200 years ago. Among these
 were distinguished names as Hugo, Jou-
 bert, Pouché, Jourdain, du Plessy, Ber-
 nard. These noble Huguenots in the
 second and third generations had inter-
 married with the Dutch Boers and their
 numerous descendants have been most
 conspicuous fighters in the present war,
 and have large influence over the less
 cultivated Boers, who are generally des-
 cended from the Dutch employees of the
 East India company, and as has been seen
 in this war, they follow any movement in
 which they have embarked to the extreme
 end, whatever may happen. In some re-
 spects this is a very good trait. Some-
 times it terminated successfully. But in
 the present case, the contest is bound to
 result in British supremacy in spite of the
 blunders of the British war office and the
 occasional successful raids of the swift-
 moving Boers.

The house committee yesterday reported
 the bill for the permanent establishment
 of a census bureau. Notwithstanding
 Congressman Gillett's statement previous-
 ly made, that "we are voting simply to
 keep our pets in office," no effort of a
 serious nature has been made to displace
 the pets. The reported bill puts the
 clerks into the civil service without fur-

ther examinations. Some of them are fit,
 others are not. Those who are fit should
 have no trouble in passing the examina-
 tion. Some congressmen evidently feel
 that their pets would fall in an examina-
 tion. The bill as framed is a nice thing
 for the clerks, but, as Mr. Madox of
 Georgia asked, "How about the people
 who paid the expenses?" Here we are
 going in for a permanent bureau loaded
 up with clerks who are afraid of examina-
 tions as to their fitness.

Minneapolisians are a plain and sober
 people, little given to display. Their
 veracious tax rolls show that they own
 only \$72,000 worth of jewels. As this is
 about 35 cents apiece, it can not be
 charged that they are luxurious or given
 to spending their money for baubles. But
 their memories!

ANOTHER INSUBSTANTIAL BOGEY

We are told that if the new tax code
 should go into effect without amendment
 there would be a "run" on the banks,
 especially the savings banks.

It is assumed that, fearing the assess-
 ment of their deposits, depositors would
 hurriedly withdraw them in order to put
 them in some place not so easily acces-
 sible to the tax assessor.

This assumption involves some others.
 These are that these bank depositors have
 made up their minds to commit perjury,
 or that they intend to send their money
 out of the state. If they withdrew it to
 put it in stockings and hide it from the
 assessor they will injure themselves. They
 will be choosing to get no revenue from
 their deposits, whereas if they left them
 in the banks they would get something,
 probably not less than 2 per cent where
 the rate of interest is 3.

Nor is it certain that the generally hon-
 est persons who have bank accounts will
 readily run into perjury, now that it is
 understood that it is no longer to be
 winked at or condoned. Tax dodging per-
 jure is a very grave act in the eyes of
 the new tax law. As for getting the
 money out of the state, that is no easy
 matter for the small depositor. He doesn't
 know how to go about it, and if he should
 attempt it he would find that agents' com-
 missions would eat up the petty revenue
 to be derived from his small capital.

He may, it is true, take his money out

of the bank and invest it in real estate.

But that will be a gradual operation, with

no suggestion of a run. And who will

object if the bank depositors choose to in-

vest their money in real estate?

If the tax bill is as bad as the commission

in their report, and if it should be passed

this winter, with the expectation of repealing

it next winter, this would be an invitation for

every bootlegger and leecher in Minnesota to

spend all the money he could beg, borrow or

steal for election to the legislature, in order

to enrich himself for life by refusing his

vote for repeal until he had been bought off.

Are the members of the legislature looking

for this kind of colleagues? Would they not

rather pluck up courage and say plainly what

they believe about the tax bill?—The Tribune.

This paragraph The Tribune apparently

thought a good deal of since it printed it

in black-faced type on its editorial page.

Aside from the gratuitous insult which it

offers to the members of the legislature,

it looks like an intimation that those

who are opposed to tax reform of any

kind, are ready to go into the market and

buy what they want. What a chance they

would have, too, if these poor amendments

were left to their tender mercies, without

the protection which the passage of the

law, to go into effect in 1903, would afford.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

The big organization known as Frank

Parley's Singing Comedians, now presenting

"The Chorus," at the Grand Opera House,

is giving an entertainment of fun, melody and

dancing that is attracting throngs. The bright-

ness of "The Chorus" are loaded with

laughter, and the tunes numbers all the

theater with waves of melody. Several of

the principals are likely to become strong

local favorites before the end of the engage-

ment.

General Bell says that one woman is

more efficient in pacifying the Philippi-

ans than a company of soldiers. Let us

marry off the whole army in the Philippi-

ans. That will be equivalent to an

army of 4,000,000 men, according to Gen-

eral Bell's ideas.

Casualty Observed.

We will concede that both England and

Spain too.

The coal men have perfected a merger.

Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir

uneasily in its pigeonhole.

A London store hires a professional shopper

to put the clerks to inconvenience and report

on their behavior as customers.

Kernit Roosevelt is said to have "licked"

a "big school" of Kernit has been going

against papa with the gloves and knows the

value of the loose mitt and the low guard.

The 1,100 seats of the Stock Exchange in

New York are now worth \$38,000,000, proba-
 bly the most expensive outfit of upholstery in
 the United States.

Dr. Gussulius is out with the first syllable

of his name after the man who lunches on

pie and coffee. Yet the doctor is likely to

be a success, as he has a good deal of the

value of the loose mitt and the low guard.

It is evident that there is much con-
 fusion in the democratic mind as yet as to
 what democratic principles are. A number
 of democratic organs are coupling Bryan's
 name with the term "silver and disaster,"
 as if the two were synonymous, and they
 talk in a denunciatory way about the
 "dead issues" to which many democrats
 cling. The Atlanta Constitution
 vigorously denies that the democratic
 party was captured by the populists in
 1896 and 1900, but "stood upon its own
 platform, supported its own candidate, and
 was defeated by a minority republican
 party augmented by enough deserters from
 democracy to give it a victory that was
 otherwise impossible." The platform was
 a populist platform, and therefore the
 democracy deliberately supported popu-
 lism. Why did certain democrats desert
 that platform except for the reason, as
 they said, that it did not represent dem-
 ocratic principles,—"Jeffersonian prin-
 ciples." The Constitution calls upon the
 party to get together on a basis of prin-
 ciples, "essential to the Jeffersonian
 scheme of republican government," which
 Bryan in no way represents.

Here is ex-Lieutenant Governor

Chauncey F. Block of Pennsylvania say-
 ing: "None of us who supported the Chi-
 cago and Kansas City platforms and fol-
 lowed with joy and pride that glorious
 tribune of the common people of America,
 William J. Bryan, feel the smallest sense
 of regret for our action in those days
 which tried men's souls. We would glad-
 ly do the same again." This looks very
 like a speech for Bryan's candidacy in
 1904. Following so soon after Bryan's
 eastern swing "round the circle," the in-
 vitation by Tammany and Black's hearty
 indorsement and the Bryan club indorse-
 ment in eastern cities look as if a con-
 siderable effort is making to re-energize
 the Bryan boom of 1900.

Tammany's open offer to propel Bryan

into the presidency is interesting.

Whether Bryan will move The Com-

moner to New York under this pressure

remains to be seen. His western sup-

porters might set it down as a movement

into the arms of plutocracy. They have

seen the Hon. Charles A. Towne go to

New York and become the willing part-

ner of oil plutocrats and the "money

power," and they will ask themselves if

their beloved "tribune of the common

people" will be proof against the fascina-

tions of plutocracy when even Towne, a

former tribune, yields to the subtle in-

fluence. Even Tammany itself is a money

power of the most dangerous kind for the

political liberty of the people.

A Post-Theater Incident.

Not much a week ago Charlie took the girl

to the theater in a carriage of course. After

the show was over, the Mercury in charge

opened his countenance and called the car-

The democratic situation is interest-
 ing. They are blind as bats to the best
 opportunities and prefer to grub in
 a channel house for dead men's bones.

ANONYMOUS ACTIVITY

The enemies of the proposed tax law
 are very active. One of the evidences
 of their activity comes to members of the
 Hennepin delegation in the form of a cir-
 cular purporting to be issued by the Ed-
 ward Trades and Labor Assembly of Du-
 luth, the principal item of which is a
 protest against the taxation of grain in
 store. It is true that the circular begins
 with a reference to the personal property
 exemption and urges that it be restored
 to \$100, but it presently gets away from
 that subject and devotes a greater part
 of its space to the grain question and the
 taxation of vessels registered at Duluth.

It probably does not make very much
 difference to the men who load and unload
 the ships at Duluth harbor whether they
 are registered in Duluth or Buffalo; nor is
 it customary for Trades and Labor As-
 semblies to display much agitation over
 possible hardships imposed by taxation
 upon capitalists engaged in the grain
 business.

This is not to say that the protest
 raised against the taxation of grain in
 store may not be justified, but the cir-
 cular referring to it is so palpably in-
 spired by other than labor interests that
 it would seem to be quite as well if every
 interest antagonizing this bill were to
 come out and fight it in the open instea-

of employing the name of a labor organi-
 zation through which to reach the mem-
 bers of the legislature.

One of the leading business houses in
 Fergus Falls sends to The Journal a
 copy of an anonymous circular with this
 remark:

"We are in receipt of the attached un-
 signed circular, the object of which is to
 induce us to look with suspicion upon a
 plea for the widow and orphan sent to
 us in a disinterested way. We do not think
 any widow or orphan sent it, but that, per-
 haps, some old, bald-headed tax-dodger did."

It is not only the tax law, but the tax
 law is perfectly legitimate and in order,
 but the distribution of anonymous circu-
 lars such as this one, entitled "To the
 Tax Payers of Minnesota," and addressed
 to this business house in Fergus Falls, is
 not of that kind. It undertakes to mis-
 represent the facts with regard to the tax
 and to make the farmer and the country
 merchant believe that they are particu-
 larly discriminated against by this law, the
 cardinal principle of which is the taxa-
 tion of all property at a rate based upon
 its actual value. (As the communication
 from Fergus Falls states, the large
 amount of anxiety developed in behalf
 of the widow and orphan is unusual, and
 may well create suspicion when it takes
 the form of anonymous circulars of the kind
 described.)

General Bell says that one woman is
 more efficient in pacifying the Philippi-
 ans than a company of soldiers. Let us
 marry off the whole army in the Philippi-
 ans. That will be equivalent to an
 army of 4,000,000 men, according to Gen-